

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 240810Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 5964

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13220

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: FORCE REDUCTION TALKS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC AND USSAG FOR GENERAL VOGT

REF: A. STATE 161191 B. BANGKOK 13197 C. STATE 168561

1. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS ALONG LINE REF C, AT FRIDAY NEGOTIATING SESSION THAI SIDE INSISTED THAT IN VIEW OF PRESS AND PUBLIC INTEREST AND PRESSURES ON PRIME MINISTER, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR RTG TO RELEASE STATEMENT TODAY. FOLLOWING TEXT AGREED AD REFERENDUM AND BEING SUBMITTED TO PRIME MINISTER THANOM LATER TODAY. RELEASE PLANNED FOR 2000 LOCAL (241300Z TODAY FOR EVENING TV NEWSCASTS AS WELL AS SATURDAY MORNING PAPERS.

2. BEGIN TEXT

JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUE BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES

ON AUGUST 17, 1973 (B.E. 2516), THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AGREED TO PROCEED WITH OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE LEVEL OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN THAILAND.

ACCORDINGLY, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, HEADED ON THE UNITED STATES SIDE BY MAJOR GENERAL

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THOMAS MELLEN AND ON THE THAI SIDE BY LT. GENERAL

KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN, HELD A MEETING ON AUGUST 24, 1973 (B.E. 2516)  
AT 0900 HOURS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.  
AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING IT WAS AGREED THAT THE UNITED  
STATES WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR AN INITIAL WITH-  
DRAWAL OF 3,550 UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL  
FROM THAILAND AND ALSO A REDUCTION OF OVER 100 AIRCRAFT.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE  
TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO AGREEING ON PLANS  
FOR FURTHER GRADUAL REDUCTIONS OF THE LEVEL OF UNITED  
STATES FORCES IN THAILAND, INCLUDING STRATEGIC, TACTICAL  
AND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT, WHILE TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION  
SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THEY AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN THE FIRST WEEK OF  
SEPTEMBER.  
BANGKOK, AUGUST 24, 1973 (B.E. 2516) END TEXT.

3. FIGURE OF 3550 PERSONNEL PROPOSED BY THAI SIDE TO  
INDICATE SOME INCREASE FROM 3500 FIGURE USED FOLLOWING  
AUGUST 17 TALKS.

4. MENTION OF "REDUCTION OF OVER 100 AIRCRAFT" FOLLOWED  
THAI INSISTENCE ON SPECIFYING A NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT.  
FIGURE WAS UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES TO APPLY TO REDUCTION  
FROM AUTHORIZED CEILING FIGURES, NOT ACTUAL MOVEMENT OF  
AIRCRAFT OUT OF COUNTRY. US SIDE COMPUTED PROPOSED  
REDUCTIONS OF TACTICAL AND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT WOULD TOTAL  
117 REDUCTION FROM PRESENT IN-COUNTRY RTG AUTHORIZATION,  
I.E. 30 USMC F-4, 23 USMC A-6, 6 USMC KC-130, 6 USAF  
F-105, 36 USAF F-4, 12 USAF F-111, 4 USMC CH-46.

5. REFERENCE TO FUTURE REDUCTION "INCLUDING STRATEGIC,  
TACTICAL AND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT" AROSE FROM THAI INSISTENCE  
THAT PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST, AS WELL AS THAI RELATIONS  
WITH NEIGHBOR COUNTRIES, FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON B-52  
PRESENCE. THAIS ALSO INSISTED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT  
TO EXPLAIN PRESENT LEVEL OF KC-135 TANKER AIRCRAFT  
FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF TACAIR SQUADRONS.

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6. NEXT MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 7.  
UNGER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, TROOP REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS RELEASES, COMMUNIQUE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P750008-1604  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 161191, 73 BANGKOK 13197  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TALKS ON REDUCING MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND  
**TAGS:** MARR, US, TH  
**To:** ES  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005